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Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday July 7, 1976 CI NIDC 76-158C

State Dept. review completed

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, July 7, 1976.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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LEBANON

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Lebanese leftist and Palestinian forces intensified their attacks yesterday on Christian villages in the north. The offensive, which began on Monday, is in retaliation for the continued Christian assault on Tall Zatar refugee camp outside Beirut and is intended to draw Christian forces away from the beleaguered camp.

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The thrust of the Palestinian-leftist attack has been through Christian areas populated mainly by Greek Orthodox communities that have generally been spared involvement in the war.

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The Palestinians said yesterday they had taken the town of Chekka following a heavy bombardment of the city and several surrounding villages.

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Chekka is astride one of the few Christian-controlled access routes to the larger Christian town of Zagharta--the home town of President Franjiyah--which may be the ultimate target of the Palestinian-leftist offensive. Although Zagharta is relatively well defended and has withstood numerous attacks from surrounding Muslim villages, it is located on the periphery of the Christian core area and could be blockaded.

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We have been unable to confirm press reports that the Palestinians have attacked Christian areas near Batroun or that they have advanced as far south as Amchit, the site of the Christians' major radio station.

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[REDACTED] Although Arab League representatives and Libyan Prime Minister Jallud continue their separate efforts to arrange a truce, the Palestinian offensive in the north has dampened hopes for an early resumption of serious negotiations.

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[REDACTED] Syria apparently hopes that the Palestinians' losses in Beirut will force them to reconsider Syrian terms. Damascus doubtless also hopes that Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, who made a surprise trip to Moscow on Monday, will be able to elicit the Soviets' help in pressing Palestinian leaders to accept Syria's ground rules for negotiations. [REDACTED]

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SUDAN

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[REDACTED] Members of the ultra-conservative Sudanese Ansar religious sect apparently played a major role in the abortive coup attempt against President Numayri last Friday and Saturday. The uprising evidently had substantial Libyan backing, and disaffected western Sudanese tribesmen may also have been involved.

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[REDACTED] Sudan's close identification with the Sadat government in Egypt and with Cairo's Middle East negotiating policy probably is at the root of Libya's intriguing against the Numayri government.

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[REDACTED] We have no evidence that any Sudanese military units were overtly disloyal to Numayri, although some individual members of the military may have sided with the rebels.

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- 25X1 [] The Ansar sect, which has long been at odds with Numayri, numbers about 3 million members scattered throughout the central part of the country. We do not know how many adherents were involved directly in last week's rebellion, but there was extensive fighting in the capital area and several hundred persons are reported to have been killed. Numayri's success in fending off the coup was not firmly established until about midday on Saturday.
- 25X1 [] Libyan President Qadhafi almost certainly provided material support for the plot and may have helped some exiled Ansar members return to Sudan to help organize the move.
- 25X1 [] The Numayri regime is exaggerating the numbers of rebels who came from the outside, however, in its effort to portray the episode as essentially a Libyan-directed invasion requiring urgent attention by the UN Security Council.
- 25X1 [] Numayri, speaking at the Organization of African Unity summit meeting in Mauritius on Monday, charged that Libya had recruited, trained, and armed more than 2,000 "African mercenaries" and infiltrated them into Sudan in a year-long operation.
- 25X1 [] Yesterday, Sudan announced it had broken relations with Libya. Libya has replied to Sudan's charges by characterizing the coup attempt as an internal popular upheaval directed against a "fascist military regime."
- 25X1 [] The intended beneficiary of the coup attempt was Ansar leader Sadiq al-Mahdi. He has been living in exile in Libya for the past few years.
- 25X1 [] In his OAU speech, Numayri said a Libyan aircraft flew over Khartoum shortly after the coup effort began last Friday, carrying a reactionary and religious politician trying to take power. The statement is being interpreted in Khartoum as a clear 25X1 reference to al-Mahdi.
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[] Although most of those involved in the coup attempt apparently have been rooted out, the government has imposed special security precautions--including a dusk-to-dawn curfew--which will remain in force for the next few days. A 1,510-man Sudanese brigade, which has been stationed along the Suez Canal since the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, has been airlifted back to Sudan in Egyptian aircraft.

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[] The latest effort to replace Numayri, who came to power in 1969, is the most serious since the Communists attempted to oust him in July 1971. His hold on power will continue to be determined largely by his ability to keep the loyalty of key units of the armed forces; the armored corps stationed near Khartoum seems to have saved him this time.

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[] Numayri has attempted to ensure the military's allegiance by //seeking military equipment and// returning to public life several old associates who are popular with the army.

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[] On the other hand, the army has smarted under allegations that many of its men were involved in an abortive coup last September. Moves to censure the army for its reported tardiness in coming to Numayri's defense last week could further alienate the armed forces. []

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CHINA

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[] The death yesterday of Chinese Politburo member Chu Te has somewhat altered the balance of power in the party leadership. Chu was a highly respected party elder, and his moderate views probably played an important role in containing the campaign against ousted vice premier Teng Hsiao-ping.

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[] Despite his 90 years, //Chu reportedly was outspoken in defense of Teng and scornful of some of the party's younger, more radical leaders.// Two poems by Chu published in March implicitly criticized the disunity in the party created by the campaign against Teng.

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25X1 [] Chu's death reduces to five the membership of the Politburo's elite standing committee. Of these, only Defense Minister Yeh Chien-ying can clearly be counted as a member of the moderate camp.

25X1 [] Premier Hua Kuo-feng, also a standing committee member, has apparently avoided firm factional alliances, although his policy preferences appear to be generally moderate and he has been attacked by the left in the past.

25X1 [] With yet another vacancy at the highest level of the party--four standing committee members have died in just over a year--the jockeying for position in anticipation of Chairman Mao's death is likely to intensify further.

25X1 [] Chu's funeral should be the occasion for the first major leadership turnout since the funeral of Chou En-lai in January. Several officials have not appeared publicly since that time. The turnout will be an indication of whether any of Teng's second-echelon associates have fallen victim to the campaign against him. []

USSR-RHODESIA

25X1 [] Moscow may be preparing Soviet citizens for an increase in Soviet or Cuban support for Rhodesian insurgents.

25X1 [] *Pravda* called attention last Friday to the increasing efforts of Prime Minister Ian Smith's administration to counter growing guerrilla incursions into Rhodesia. The article labeled as "straightforward military aggression" recent air strikes and cross-border operations by Rhodesia against Mozambique and Rhodesian "diversionary" acts against Zambia.

25X1 [] The newspaper also noted the Rhodesian threats of punitive military action against virtually all of the principal black African states. It attempted to link these threats with the specter of joint action by Rhodesia and South Africa to suppress Rhodesian insurgency.

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[REDACTED] //The impression conveyed to Soviet readers was that more Soviet military assistance may be required by both the Rhodesian guerrillas and the states that provide them sanctuary and support.//

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[REDACTED] *Pravda* hinted at "difficulties" within the Rhodesian liberation movement when it alleged efforts by the Smith administration to foster dissension and violent struggle among the various tribal elements.

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[REDACTED] Despite the article's assertion that such efforts have not been successful, the references to dissension clearly indicated that the Soviets are not happy with the degree of political and military coordination among the various insurgent groups.

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SPAIN

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[] Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez' "fireside chat" to the Spanish people last night stressed the need for dialogue and democracy. It may help break the deadlock in negotiations to persuade centrist oppositionists to join the new cabinet.

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[] Suarez pledged to accelerate the pace of political reforms and invited the opposition to cooperate in the struggle to achieve a "modern democracy." He made no effort to pander to the far right.

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[] On the other hand, he made no concrete proposals for improving or speeding up the government's reform program--leaving that to the new government--and offered no significant concessions to the opposition.

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[] So far, members of Christian and Social Democratic factions--those groups that have refused to join the opposition coalition with the Communists--have turned down cabinet posts pending further assurances about the liberalizing commitment of the new government and its program.

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CHINA

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[redacted] //The Chinese artillery shelling of a small island near the Chinese Nationalist island of Kinmen (Quemoy) last week-end apparently came in response to Nationalist firing at the same area several hours earlier.//

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[redacted] //We still do not have sufficient information to explain fully the military activity that has occurred near the coast of southern Fukien province for the past two months. It is evident, however, that the activity is not yet of a magnitude that would suggest a Chinese attack on Nationalist territory, a judgment Nationalist officials have also made. [redacted]

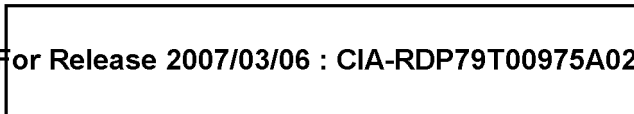
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BOLIVIA MINE STRIKE

25X1 [] Bolivian miners are returning to their jobs after a three-week strike, but the causes of the walkout have not been resolved and further disruptions could occur.

25X1 [] The miners struck after President Banzer moved troops against state-owned mines early last month, declared a state of siege, and arrested scores of union leaders who were demanding a 266-percent wage increase. The miners have been protesting the military take-over and demanding the return of their leaders, the removal of troops, and a 100-percent wage increase.

25X1 [] The US embassy reports that the situation in the mining area is quiet even though some miners remain off the job in two of the most important mines. The mine workers, insisting that their strike is continuing, have asked national and foreign reporters to verify the "real" situation. The government has refused to allow newsmen to enter the mining districts. []

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